

SACRAMENTO RIVER CONSERVATION AREA

2440 Main Street
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SRCA NOTES

DECEMBER, 2001

- ❖ **Project Activities and Updates-** Work has been completed on the gravel removal project at the site of the M&T/Llano Seco pumping plant/City of Chico outfall. The project took 16 days of around the clock work with one 2-1/2" rainfall event that stopped work for about 12 hours. Les Heringer, Manager, noted the river was flowing at low levels, which made the project very manageable. They have submitted a CALFED proposal for Phase II to deal with the gravel long term.
- ❖ **From The Nature Conservancy – Socioeconomic Assessment** – The scope of this assessment is designed to provide economic data and insights that can help to answer key questions about establishing a riparian corridor along the Sacramento River. The consulting firm conducting this assessment, Jones & Stokes Assoc., has completed their collection of economic data through a survey of landowners and other individuals familiar with conditions along the river, and through contacts with local, federal and state government agencies that maintain relevant data. They are currently analyzing the data and anticipate completing their analysis by the end of January. A workshop will be scheduled for early February to present the findings before a draft report is produced and distributed.

SRCA Board Meeting – December 6

Chair Ben Carter

Discussion Items:

- Dan Castleberry, USFWS, announced he has accepted a new position as Chief of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program; Marie Sullivan will replace Dan as representative on the SRCA Board.
- **Manager's Report** – Burt introduced Les Heringer, M&T, who gave a slide presentation on the work that had been done on the gravel bar removal project.
- **Board Committee Reports** – The **Executive Committee** is reviewing a draft legal services agreement from O'Laughlin & Paris and will extend an invitation to the principles of the firm to attend the next Executive Committee meeting. There was in depth discussion at the **TAC** level on the action taken at the November 13th meeting of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors where a resolution to support a request to remove lands outside of the levees from the Conservation Area was adopted. It was announced at the Board meeting that Butte County will have the resolution on their Dec. 11th agenda; Glenn County is re-writing the resolution and will have on their Dec. 18th agenda; Colusa City Counsel will also hear on Dec. 18th. There was a great deal of discussion on the issue. Chairman Carter has asked the TAC to address the Conservation Area as a top priority. The **Landowner Assurances Committee** is working on the Good Neighbor Policy draft, they are still looking for input. The **PILT/Economic Committee** had discussion on the possibility of changing federal law to allow fair distribution of PILT; Kim Vann from Rep. Ose's office will research to see if states other than California have the same problem. Market Street Marketing is working on a creative brief for the **Outreach Committee's** review. Burt Bundy reported on the **Project Review Committee**, work is still being done and input is needed. The Board will be reviewing CALFED proposals in February and it was suggested this be in place as it will be an important tool.
- **Agency Reports** – Scott Clemons, Wildlife Conservation Board, discussed the Pine Creek Project located 2 miles south of Hamilton City. Mark Charlton, USCOE, announced a CALFED Policy Group meeting Dec. 12th at the Convention Center in Sacramento from 8:30 to 5:00. Sam Lawson, TNC, updated the group on hydraulic modeling in the Hamilton City Area. The first model run will be the locally preferred alternative for re-alignment of the J Levee.
- Discussion was held on the recent Comp. Study meetings, the perception of those meetings, and whether or not suggestions by stakeholders are being addressed. It was suggested that the mitigation requirements of the ESA result in statewide benefits, but the costs are incurred locally. Mark Charlton noted that Congress is listening and he will take the comments back with him.

The Sacramento River Conservation Area was presented with "**The Governor's 2001 Environmental and Economic Leadership Award**" in the Watershed & Ecosystem Management category. The presentation ceremony was held on Tuesday, November 27th, at the Cal/EPA Headquarters in Sacramento. Ben Carter, SRCA Chairman, accepted the award, which was presented by Mary Nichols, Secretary, California Resources Agency. Also in attendance were Burt Bundy, Denny Bungarz, Diana Jacobs, and Tim Ramirez.

Technical Advisory Committee – November 14

Chair Anjanette Martin

Vice-Chair Stacy Cepello

Discussion Items:

- Chair Anjanette Martin announced she and Ernie Ohlin will be on the review panel for the ERP CALFED grants. Also noted, the first scoping on Sites will be held January 9th at the Maxwell Inn, 6-9 p.m.
- **Definition of area between IRZ and outer boundary of Conservation Area** - Tom Evans, FWA, advised the group that the Sutter County Board of Supervisors voted on Nov. 13th to adopt a resolution in support of a request to the SRCA to remove lands outside the levees from the Conservation Area. He also noted that the resolution will be considered by Colusa and Glenn County Boards at their November 20th meetings. Questions were raised as to whether or not the Board can modify the Conservation Area, what the consequences would be, and if it would be a violation of the MOA. Discussion followed as to the pros and cons of having this area.
- **Activities Updates** – Carol Wright, SRP, announced they had a meeting with DF&G and Reclamation Board members to discuss the permitting process. Greg Golet, TNC, discussed the Public Use/Recreation Study. They will bring the refined scope of work to the TAC asking for comments and names of people to be contacted for public meetings. Stacy Cepello announced DWR is working on a contract with Chico State for a website that will provide public access information. Stacy also touched briefly on the work being done to update all tables in the Handbook to reflect changes to the data by as a result of the recently adopted amendments.
- **Manager's Report** – Les Heringer, M&T, was introduced to update the group on the gravel removal that began on Nov. 3rd. Burt, SRCA Manager, discussed handouts of a draft project review for funded projects and proposed projects within the SRCA.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q Why is the Conservation Area much broader than the present day riparian corridor, or the area within the inner river zone?

A There are a variety of reasons but the primary focus was to provide as broad an area as practical where landowners would be eligible to participate in conservation programs, and issues and concerns associated with riparian restoration along the river would be addressed. It also defines the area where land management practices outside of the riparian corridor might affect the success of the restoration effort. The 100-year floodplain became the starting point for delineation in each of the four reaches. Because the width of the present day floodplain is substantially reduced post-Shasta Dam, an effort was made to incorporate remnants of valley oak forest and oxbow

lakes (artifacts of a pre-Shasta Dam hydrology) outside of the 100-year flood line. The reaches containing project levees were especially problematic. From the landowners’ perspective, listed species that would be attracted to the habitat between the levees were not necessarily going to stay put. Farmers wanted assurances that the enforcement of laws designed to protect endangered species would not infringe their ability to farm. A variety of issues spilled out from within the levees –the need for good neighbor policies, the ability to participate in set-aside or compensation programs, concerns regarding public trespass, and seepage onto adjoining lands, etc. From the wildlife management perspective, preservation and connectivity to the habitat outside of the levees was important. There was also a recognition that agriculture

was a far better neighbor than were other types of potential development, and it was therefore in the interest of a successful restoration effort to support conservation of adjacent agricultural lands and especially agricultural practices that were compatible with maintaining a viable riparian corridor. After months of discussion between those who would expand the Conservation Area many miles beyond the existing levees and those who would limit planning activities to the area solely between the levees, a compromise was struck. It was determined that a one-mile buffer, but only including lands actually suitable for restoration, outside of the existing levees would provide a limited, but adequate area to address all reasonable concerns.

Sacramento River Conservation Area Board Members:
Ben Carter, Chair, Colusa County
Jane Dolan, Vice Chair, Butte County
Don Anderson, Sec./Treas., Glenn County

Bill Borrer, Tehama County
Denny Bungarz, Glenn County
Mel Dodgin, The Resources Agency
Marc Faye, Yolo County
Brendon Flynn, Tehama County
Dan Gover, Shasta County
Glenn Hawes, Shasta County
Shirley Lewis, Butte County
Lynnel Pollock, Yolo County
Dan Silva, Sutter County
Doug White, Colusa County
Russell Young, Sutter County

Ex-Officio Members:
Laura Allen, Bureau of Reclamation
Dan Castleberry, USF&WS
Mark Charlton, Corps of Engineers
Diana Jacobs, Department of Fish & Game
Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board
Dwight Russell, Department of Water Resources

Burt Bundy, Manager (530) 528-7411
bundy@water.ca.gov

Future TAC/SRCA Board and Committee Meetings:
The next **TAC** meeting will be **January 17th**, 9:00 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows
The next **SRCA Board** meeting will be **January 24th**, **3:00** p.m., Willows City Hall, Willows
Econ/PILT Committee meeting on **January 11th**, 10:00 a.m. in Willows at Common Grounds (corner Butte & Wood)